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Minutes, Mar. 2005

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for March 7, 2005

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin, and Ted Packard. Others present were Joey Glushko, Ted Selker, Tara Santimauro, and Bobby Mac.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

Jack called for updates on bicycle experiences that we've had in the last month. He also informed us that the Boston Bicycle show will be held this weekend. Tara Santimauro introduced herself.

*We approved the minutes from the last meeting with three minor changes.

Feedback on the ABAC Winter Social event held last month. Scott described the event for Tara. Others also described their experiences. Jack suggested that it would be helpful, next year, to have the house for a bit longer for setup and breakdown.

Updates from the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Scott told us that there is an ongoing traffic study in East Arlington in conjunction with some Tufts students.

Stephan told us that representatives of the Symmes neighborhood told the TAC that they would like to see enhanced pedestrian access to the Symmes development. This should include a new sidewalk on Woodside Lane and access to the Bicycle Path at Brattle and Grove Streets.

Work on the Mass. Ave. Corridor continues. VHB consulting is preparing the project so that it can be submitted to the State for funding.

We discussed whether we should recommend a bicycle lane or a wide shoulder. We decided we were in favor of bike lanes along Mass. Ave. as long as they are continuous and well-designed. We felt that discontinuous lanes are much more dangerous than no lanes. The bike lanes should be at least 5 feet wide. We discussed our usual objections to bike lanes but decided to recommend continuous bike lanes or, alternatively, wide lanes with Denver Arrows.

Scott reminded us about the redesign of the intersection at the Alewife Station. The intersection will be tightened up and made into a T shape with more conventional crosswalks. Ted S. suggested that we recommend separate curb cuts for pedestrians and bicycles.

We also discussed the enhancements to the Arlington Center Bicycle Path crossing.

We decided that the minimal requirement is a sign at both ends. We formed a subcommittee of Scott, Ted S., Jack, and Ron to deal with signage. Jack reminded us that Anne Lusk also suggested roadway stencils as part of the enhancements.

Update on bicycling to school. Joey told us that in some places bicycle education is part of the physical education curriculum. Jack said that there is new state legislation pending regarding safe routes to school.

Discussion with Tara Santimauro, graduate student in the Tufts Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning program, regarding bicycling and the transportation section of Arlington's forthcoming Sustainable Action Plan. Tara first asked us if we had any amendments to the section on infrastructure improvements for bicycles. We told Tara about ABAC's activities throughout the year. Ted S. asked about improving the bike friendliness of Pleasant St. We decided to take up the matter of Pleasant St. at some future meeting.

Scott mentioned our efforts to get bicycle racks installed where needed and Jack reminded us that the bulk of the bicycle traffic is on the Bicycle Path and Mass. Ave. so we should concentrate our efforts there. We will give Tara our annual reports for the last few years to update her on our activities.

Discussion on how to control invasive weeds on the Minuteman Bikeway this coming summer. We decided that we will need to be proactive and request help from the DPW early in the season. We need to emphasize the importance of clear sightlines and safety and concentrate our efforts in these areas. Stephan told us that because

everyone is over-committed, we should concentrate on fewer more intensive cleanup efforts.

Route options for the annual BIKE-Arlington Tour scheduled for Sunday, May 22. Jack proposed recycling (!) an old route. We discussed a west to east route and various details.

Review/update action items from prior meetings, plus upcoming events. Jack has started writing a memo to the Selectmen about bicycle safety issues in town. Jack mentioned that he will coordinate with the TAC and Sustainable Arlington. Jack asked Scott for recent bike/auto crash data.

Open forum. Bobby asked if we would be willing to sponsor a weekly bike ride starting at Fitness First.

Upcoming events:

- β National Bike Summit

- β MassBike event at O'Naturals Café

- β Spy Pond Trails Weekend

- β 8th Annual Bike-Arlington Tour

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38.

*Denotes a vote of the board was taken.